

BLUES TAKE THIRD SPOT IN STYLE

BARKING 2; WYCOMBE WANDERERS 1

IN a great finish to their Isthmian League Season, Wycombe Wanderers made third position in the Premier Division their own on Saturday with a performance at Mayesbrook Park that ranked as one of the best all season.

On a surface as poor as any in the league, it was a game of two halves. Barking were two goals up at half-time, but Wycombe put it all together after the interval to score three times, and climb over Tooting and Mitcham in the table.

Barking, playing with three strikers as well as Terry Dibble in the No 5 shirt up front, had Peter Spittle under early pressure, and continued to dominate the first half.

Early Wanderers attacks were scarce, but even at this stage it was obvious that Dylan Evans

was heading for a superb game, constantly winning balls in the air and on the ground.

On 17 minutes, Barking went ahead with a neatly taken goal. Noel Ashford's cross to Peter Burton was neatly chipped through for Dibble to place it wide of Spittle from six yards.

Shortly after another perfect cross had Wycombe's defence in a tangle. The ball bounced around in the box, until Dingwall got in a brilliant overhead kick with Spittle beaten. The ball was flashing in under the bar when Alan Phillips had little choice but to palm it over to give away an obvious penalty. Dingwall scored from the spot.

Barking did not sit on their lead. Burton, Dingwall and Ashford were always dangerous in attack and were well supported by Hamberger and Iron. At the other end Evans continued a lone fight, and with Barking's Youth Team's goalkeeper, 16-year-old Alan Saunders looking none too sure, Wycombe were always in real a chance.

What Wanderers needed in the second half was a goal-keeper. And they got it.

Holliday, who had been having another quiet game, stepped in front of the goal and made a brilliant save when Burton's shot hit the crossbar.

Wycombe's defence were then put under a real test when Evans and Holliday combined to give Barking the lead in the second half.

Evans and Holliday continued to give Barking the lead in the second half. Evans crossed perfectly for Gordon McKenzie to score it with a fine header at the far post.

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With Holliday and Phillips buzzing Barking surrounded the midfield. Holliday and Burton both went close at the hour before Burton hit the Wanderers third goal. He and Phillips were in full flight, the ball was beating two defenders, and the way Wycombe's full back showed a low shot into the net from an acute angle.

Barking were not flustered. A massive free kick from 25 yards by Hamberger was deflected off target by the defensive wall onto the crossbar.

Wanderers' forwards did not relax, and in the closing stages Harris, Evans and Holliday all went close. Howard Kennedy also got in the act, sending the goalkeeper full stretch from 20 yards.